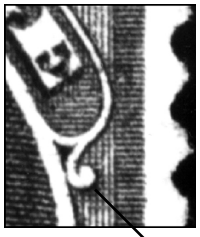
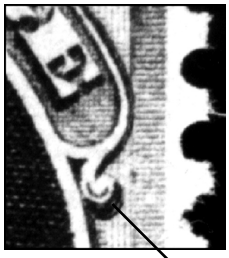
The National Bank Note Company Stamps
The 10 Cents Stamp With Grill (Scott 139)



National



Continental

The 1¢ through 7¢ National stamps are found either with the "H" Grill or "I" Grill. Beginning with the 10¢ denomination, all Nationals up to, and including, the 90¢ are encountered only with the "H" Grill.

Lester G. Brookman, in his *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century,* discusses the light grill impressions that are often found on this stamp, and states "many stamps went thru the grilling apparatus that cannot be called grilled because they bear no evidence of grilling" and mentions "stamps that bear grilling evidence so faint that only a real expert can reasonably say they went thru the grilling process." While this is a cause for concern, the presence of at least a faint or partial grill is sufficient to identify the stamp as Scott 139.

Collectible grill varieties include a double grill, split grill, and end roller grill.

The primary characteristic that distinguishes the 10¢ National printings (with or without grill) from the Continental is the lack in the National of a crescent of color in the small ball which extends from the lower portion of the right side of the label that encloses the words "U.S. Postage" (arrow).

However, the later American printing is also missing the crescent of color so you must check the paper. The National stamps are printed on a hard paper, the Americans always come on soft paper.

Scott records the earliest known use of the 10¢ with grill as May 6, 1870.

Specific plate information is not available; plates that may have been used are #s 18, 19, 48, and 49. An estimated 80,000 of these stamps were issued.

In addition to the major listing (brown), the most frequently encountered shades are yellow brown and dark brown.

Cancellations, in ascending order of scarcity, are black, blue, and red.

Cancellation varieties include Town, Steamship, and Honolulu Paid All.

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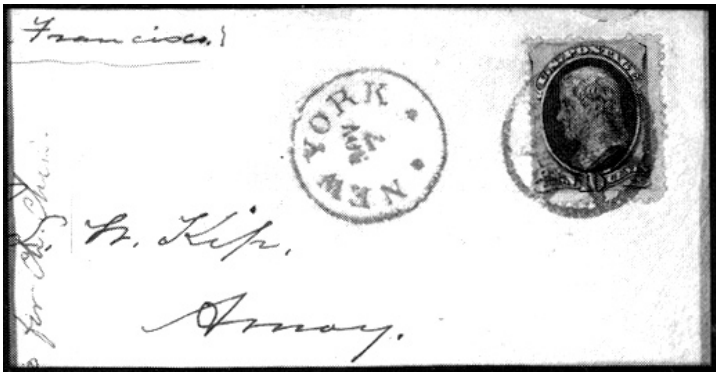

The 10¢ National on a November 1873 cover to Amoy, China, paying the 10¢ American packet rate.

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